



# IWA AT WORK

## IWA TRAINING



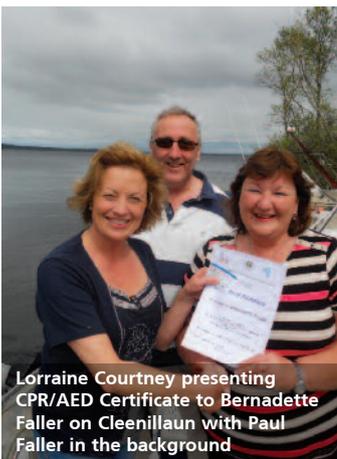
Webmaster training  
Photo: Joe Byrne

We had a few reports in recent times of training activities going on at both central and branch level for members who are active in the association in various ways. These three short reports give a flavour of the variety of those activities – ed

### WEBMASTER

On 25 January 19 people from Athlone, Boyle, Boyne, Carrick, Derg, Dublin, Lagan, Newry, Offaly and Powerboat branches attended a Webmaster training course in the Mullingar Park Hotel. The training was prompted by the associations move to a new hosting service and the more modern website content management systems that it allows us to use.

The course began with an introduction to Internet basics, and covered e-mail, transferring files, internet protocols and languages and the use of the



Lorraine Courtney presenting CPR/AED Certificate to Bernadette Faller on Cleenillaun with Paul Faller in the background

new Wordpress content management system. This included how to modify content and the use of video and images.

A second session planned for 22 February with focus on branches own websites should have taken place by the time you read this.

**Colin Becker**

### BE PREPARED: FIRST AID ON THE CORRIB

The boy scouts have a motto: 'be prepared'. Some years ago the Corrib Branch implemented a policy of 'what if' and the Committee decided to purchase a number of water pumps so that we could render assistance in an emergency. This move has served the branch well with several boats being recovered.

In 2013 the committee discussed the need for a defibrillator. There has been much publicity recently with these machines being installed in supermarkets and public areas to help deal with people suffering a heart attack. The hope is that the need will not arise, but 'be prepared'.

Dr. Noel Flynn researched the background into the purchase, and together with Lorraine Courtney a device was agreed and purchased.

In May 2013 ten members took part in a training programme in the old Fever Hospital arranged by Noel and Lorraine. Lorraine is a chief instructor and she delivered the training with Olivia Byrne. The evening was intense and CPR/AED theory and practice was covered. Anyone who has done a First-Aid course will know that five hours of training can be draining. With defibrillators and resuscitation mannequins the group worked hard and were pronounced competent at the end of the evening. Lorraine and Olivia generously gave of their time so that a core of members would be capable of using the machine in an emergency.

The branch took delivery of its own device soon after. It is kept in Kay Deacy's house in Lisloughry and the first boat out carries the defibrillator each week-end.

This system has worked well this summer and it will be reviewed as the need arises.

In order to pay for the machine, a barbecue was planned on the pier for last June. The weather was inclement, to say the least, and an invite to hold the event in Fionnuala and Edward Deacy's garage saved the day. Members were asked to attend, and if not,

please send the cheque. This worked wonderfully and nigh on €1200 was raised.

That night the CPR/AED scrolls were awarded to the participants who participated in the training course.

Thanks must go to Lorraine, Olivia and Noel for a successful venture and to the generosity of members who contributed handsomely.

Now, what will the next project be?

**Peadar Canavan**

### GETTING FIT FOR WORKPARTIES

Branches actively engaged in restoration projects need to adhere to best practice in their activities. For a voluntary group with no employees 'best practice' is a very loose term. Newry-Portadown Branch research shows that the legal standard of responsibility for voluntary groups, in Northern Ireland at least, seems to be that of reasonableness. A group of volunteers should be aware of the risks involved in the project and act to manage them. In general terms that means training.

Over the last year New-Port members have participated in numerous training programmes to show our commitment to 'best practice'. We have managed to get most of this training free of charge and we wanted to share our experience with other branches.

- Training provided for community groups by local councils. This has included accredited first aid, child protection, crowd management and stewarding, lobbying and fund raising and risk assessment.
- Training provided by statutory bodies has included the Southern Health Trust's Cycling for Health leadership training (for our Cycle Safaris) and chemical backpack spray training by Biodiversity Action (for our invasive species eradication programme).
- Partnership projects where we get free training in return for

participation in a project. Best examples here are Queen's University who provide chemicals, equipment and training and we provide manpower for giant hogweed eradication. Woodland Trust provided strimmer training for our volunteers who maintain Canal Wood on their behalf.

- Local council officials can help too. A local council director of health and safety has agreed to give informal H&S briefing to all workparty volunteers. This will be particularly useful in making people aware of the importance of site safety.
- Grant aid. We successfully applied for a volunteer recognition grant and used it to buy PPE - gloves, hard hats and hi viz vests. For a £5 donation the branch buys safety wellies for anyone that wants them.

Unable to find a way of getting free chainsaw training, the branch resolved to pay for 4 members to be trained but each person had to provide their own PPE and we hope they will repay the branch's investment by attending forestry workparties when needed. We are also paying for volunteers to attend a canal camp in England organised by the IWA's Waterways Recovery Group. We think it will be good experience to see a long established restoration group operating.

We haven't included any excavation machinery training in our shopping list because the Newry canal is a scheduled ancient monument and the use of machinery is prohibited within the lock chambers. When the time comes for us to re-build lock chambers our training requirements will change and we will have to seek out ways of again getting what we need by other means than spending branch funds.

**Geraldine Foley**



Chainsaw training: Pat Shanks and Jonathan Cully go back to school.  
Photo: Geraldine Foley